

**From:** Rich and Mary Gardner  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** USAGGardner\_Richard\_1069\_0116

Richard Gardner  
11 Carpenter Lane  
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January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am very happy to hear the Department of Justice has reached a settlement. I firmly believe that this settlement is in the best interests of the state, the IT industry, and the economy. Microsoft opponents would like us to believe that Microsoft has gotten off easy in this settlement, but this is not the case. Microsoft has been made to endure three long years of litigation in order to arrive at the terms of this settlement. The terms of the settlement, in my opinion, are fair and reasonable, and, if adhered to, will do much benefit consumers and avoid future anti-competitive behavior.

Microsoft has already proven its willingness to comply with the terms of the settlement. They have agreed to establish a uniform pricelist, grant intellectual property licensure to third parties, the establishment of a three person Technical Committee consisting of software engineering experts to help with dispute resolution.

With the current recession and its devastating effects on the state and federal budget, is very important that the technology industry be allowed to concentrate on business now rather than being distracted by a suit of this magnitude. The public appreciates your efforts to resolve this as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Richard Gardner

cc: Senator Rick Santorum

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